

# InnovationLab

Further your understanding of disaster risk



GLOBAL FACILITY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION AND RECOVERY **GFDRR**

## The Challenge Fund

### Improving understanding of risk

The starting point for improved disaster preparedness and resilience is to better understand risk. Over the past decade, there has been a marked improvement in the availability and accessibility of risk information, but many of the poorest and most vulnerable countries have been left behind.

The demand for more robust, accessible, high-resolution and trusted risk data and analyses is rising. Emerging technologies and new ways of thinking provide an unparalleled opportunity to increase the accessibility of risk information and to revolutionize this sector. For example, crowdsourcing is now flourishing to deliver new data. Challenges remain, however.

### Supporting solutions

The competitive Challenge Fund, established in 2015 by the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID), helps pilot new and innovative approaches to strengthen disaster and climate risk decision-making in developing countries.

The Fund provides grants to projects that help bridge the gap between technology and on-the-ground user needs in the field of disaster risk identification.

It supports innovative advancements to assist developing countries to better assess and manage the risks faced from natural hazards. Specifically, the Challenge Fund helps develop data, products, and approaches to facilitate disaster risk management decision-making and build resilience, while also strengthening key steps to move from information to insight and behavior change.

### Providing funding for innovation

15 new approaches are supported in the first round of Challenge Fund grants, announced in August 2015. The winners of a Challenge Fund grant represent a wide range of top institutions, non-governmental organizations, and universities that have identified critical problems that would benefit from technological innovations to impact disaster preparedness. The projects target over 20 countries throughout Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, and South Asia and range from flood simulation technology, to mobile app building, to weather station pilots, to film production.

Each grant is between \$20,000 and \$100,000, depending on need, and includes a follow-up assessment to measure anticipated impact six months after project launch.



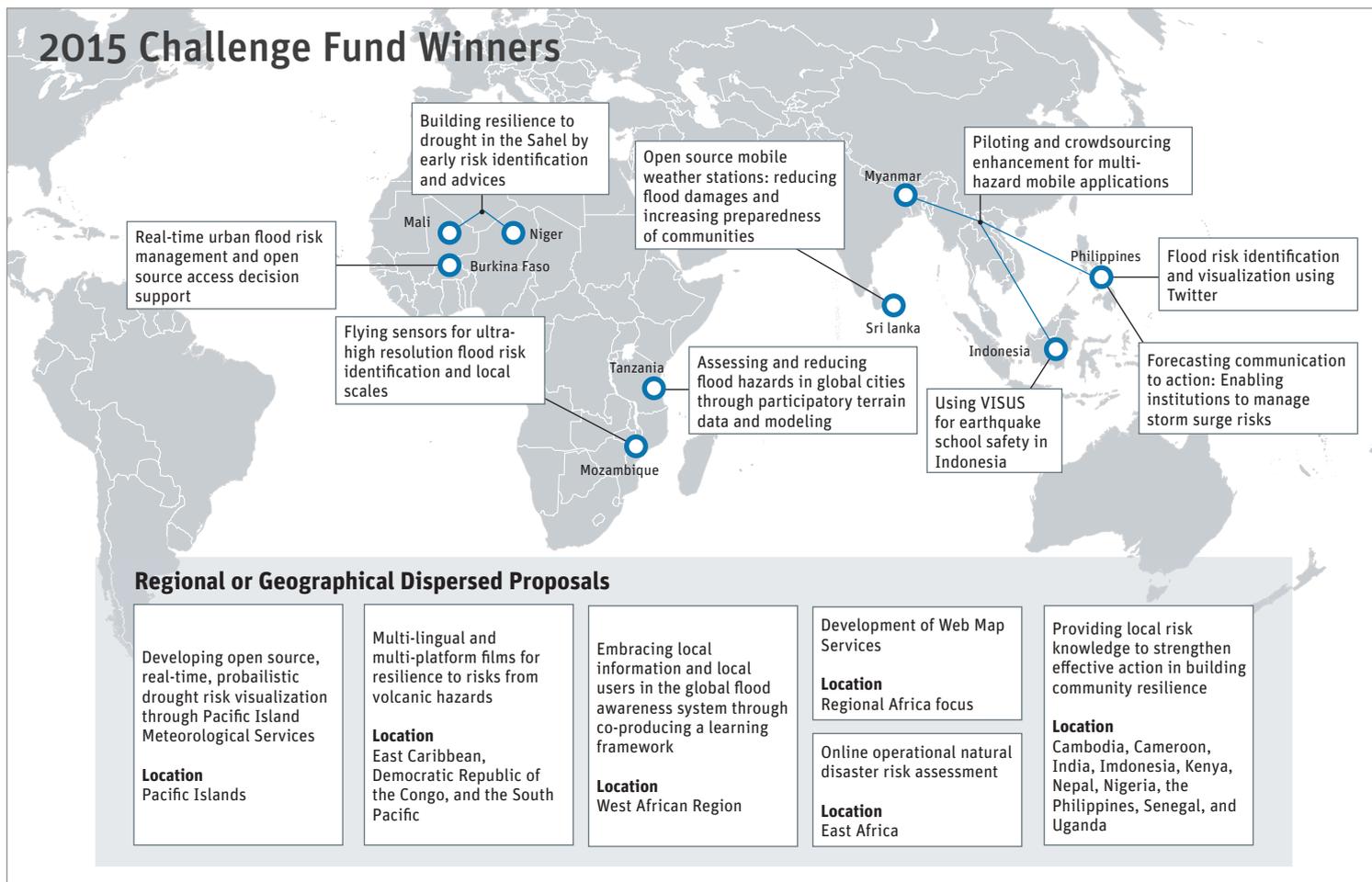
## Challenge Fund



**GFDRR**  
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



# 2015 Challenge Fund Winners



## Regional or Geographical Dispersed Proposals

<p>Developing open source, real-time, probabilistic drought risk visualization through Pacific Island Meteorological Services</p> <p><b>Location</b> Pacific Islands</p>	<p>Multi-lingual and multi-platform films for resilience to risks from volcanic hazards</p> <p><b>Location</b> East Caribbean, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the South Pacific</p>	<p>Embracing local information and local users in the global flood awareness system through co-producing a learning framework</p> <p><b>Location</b> West African Region</p>	<p>Development of Web Map Services</p> <p><b>Location</b> Regional Africa focus</p>	<p>Providing local risk knowledge to strengthen effective action in building community resilience</p> <p><b>Location</b> Cambodia, Cameroon, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Nigeria, the Philippines, Senegal, and Uganda</p>
			<p>Online operational natural disaster risk assessment</p> <p><b>Location</b> East Africa</p>	

## The challenges

With a grant, organizations respond to challenges organized into the following categories:

- ▶ **Available data and tools to analyze risk.** Utilize new techniques to fill gaps in data and build models addressing natural disasters or direct economic loss.
- ▶ **From information to insight.** Meet the challenge of communicating complex and uncertain information effectively.
- ▶ **Beyond insight to triggering changes in behavior.** Promote behavioral change and good risk management through deeper engagement beyond products and tools.
- ▶ **Wild Card.** Ideas for creative solutions to the proposed challenges not listed above.

### Solving the Puzzle: Where to Invest to Understand Risk Report

*Solving the Puzzle: Where to Invest to Understand Risk* is an initiative that aims to provide a community perspective on priorities for future collaboration and investment in developing and using disaster risk information in vulnerable countries. The initiative, led by GFDRR on behalf of DFID, contains contributions from more than 110 organizations across private, non-profit, and public institutions and has produced a report of its findings.

The report's intended outcomes are twofold: (1) encourage greater investment in the areas highlighted as priorities for disaster risk information through a community speaking as one voice; and (2) based on the consensus embodied in the report, initiate forming a strong coalition of partners and the collaboration needed to deliver on its recommendations.

To access to report, please visit: <https://understandrisk.org/initiative/scoping-report/>

📄 **More info at [www.gfdr.org/the-challenge-fund](http://www.gfdr.org/the-challenge-fund)**



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